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MR. SPEAKER :—" What has that to do with the main question? Anyhow, if the Hon. Minister is prepared to answer, I have no objection."

SRI K. PARTHASARATHY :—" May I know from the Hon. Minister, even though the Deputy Leader of the Opposition has put this question, whether there is any assurance given by Government to show due consideration to South Arcot district, including special consideration whenever necessary? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Of course, whatever is necessary and whatever is possible will be done to South Arcot district. That is not because Sri Ramasami Padayachi is here as a Minister. Even if he is not here whatever necessary will be done."

SRI S. RADHAKRISHNAN :—" தென்னுற்காடு ஜில்லாவிற்குக் கொடுத்துவந்த சாதாரணச் சலுகைகள்கூட தற்போது குறைந்துவிட்டன என்பது கனம் மந்திரி அவர்களுக்குத் தெரியுமா என்று கேட்க விரும்புகிறேன்." (சிரிப்பு.)

Improvement of the Laccadive islands.

11-50 a.m. * 1254 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have appointed any Special Officer to go into the condition of the people residing in Laccadive islands;

(*b*) if so, what are his recommendations; and

(*c*) whether the Government have taken any steps to carry out his recommendations, if any?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" (*a*) In December 1951 a special Inspecting Officer was deputed to the Laccadive and Amindivi Islands to report on the reorganisation of the administration of the islands and the uplift of the islanders.

" (*b*) & (*c*) Attention of the Member is invited to the answer to starred question No. 751 by Sri M. S. Mogral, M.L.A,. answered on 13th May 1954."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Special Officer has recommended the running of a steam ferry boat between the main land and the islands in order to maintain communications between the two and meet the needs of the travelling public? Will the Hon. Minister take immediate steps in this matter? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Steps are being taken to institute a steamer service between the Laccadive islands and the mainland."

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SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" May I know, Sir, by way of information whether the Hon. Minister has visited the Laccadive islands? If not, does he propose to make a visit at any time in the near future?"

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Yes, Sir, I propose to visit the place in December."

SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN :—" I suggest that when the Hon. Minister goes there he may also be pleased to take some of the M.L.As. with him." (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" The boat that is going to ply will be a small one. It may accommodate only five or six persons."

SRI K. M. SEETHI SAHIB :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government propose to run the steamer service themselves or allow a private concern to undertake the service?"

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" The whole matter is under the consideration of the Government."

Grant of subsidies for carrying out repairs to tanks.

* 1255 *Q.*—SRI S. RADHAKRISHNAN (on behalf of Sri K. R. Viswanathan): Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state with reference to the answer to question No. 418, dated 14th July 1953—

(*a*) whether the Government have considered the question of granting subsidies for undertaking repairs to tanks instead of for digging water wells in places where water is not found even though wells are sunk deep enough; and

(*b*) if so, the nature of their decision in the matter?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) The suggestion is found to be not acceptable to Government."

Fire stations in the City.

* 1256 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many fire stations are functioning in the City of Madras;

(*b*) the total number of Chief Fire Brigadiers;

(*c*) the number of fire engines posted in each station; and

(*d*) whether the members of the staff are provided with quarters attached to the Fire Stations?